

CLAIMS

1. An all-in-one printing system comprising:
 - a) a machine which is adapted to function as at least two different devices,
5 wherein the at least two different devices are chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader, and wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to function as all of the at least two different devices;
 - b) a first operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine and
10 which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices; and
 - c) a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine
15 instead of the first operator panel and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated
20 by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated
25 by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to operate in a stand-alone-based mode.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated
30 by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to selectively operate in a computer-host-based mode and in a stand-alone-based mode.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated
by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode, and wherein the second operator panel includes operator-panel

controller electronics which together with the machine controller electronics enables the machine to also selectively operate in a stand-alone-based mode.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes a rasterizing and print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) and includes a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the first operator panel includes a first set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices when the first operator panel is attached to the machine, and wherein the second operator panel includes a second set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices when the second operator panel is attached to the machine instead of the first operator panel.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the first operator panel includes a first display screen, wherein the second operator panel includes a second display screen, and wherein the machine controller electronics is adapted to display at least one message on the second display screen but not on the first display screen.

9. The system of claim 5, wherein the first operator panel lacks a display screen and wherein the second operator panel includes a display screen.

10. The system of claim 5, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operator panel includes a first set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices when the first operator panel is attached to the machine, and wherein the second operator panel includes a second set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices when the second operator panel is attached to the machine instead of the first operator panel.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operator panel includes a first display screen, wherein the second operator panel includes a second display screen, and wherein the machine controller electronics is adapted to display at least one message on the second display screen but not on the first display screen.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operator panel lacks a display screen and wherein the second operator panel includes a display screen.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code.

15. An all-in-one printing system comprising:

- a) a machine which is adapted to function as at least one device, wherein the at least one device is chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader, and wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode;
- b) a first operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics

to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to operate in the computer-host--based mode, wherein the machine cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode when the first operator panel is attached to the machine; and

- c) a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, which has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode and to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to also function in the computer-host-based mode.

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16. The system of claim 15, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes a rasterizing and print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) and includes a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

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17. The system of claim 15, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code.

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18. The system of claim 17, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes a rasterizing and print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) and includes a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

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19. An all-in-one printing system comprising: a machine which is adapted to function as at least two different devices,

wherein the at least two different devices are chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader,

- wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to function as all of the at least two different devices,

wherein the machine is adapted to receive a first operator panel and to receive a second operator panel instead of the first operator panel,

wherein the first operator panel is removably attachable to the machine and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices, and

- 5 wherein the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices.

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20. An all-in-one printing system comprising a machine which is adapted to function as at least one device,

wherein the at least one device is chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader,

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wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode,

wherein the machine is adapted to receive a first operator panel and to receive a second operator panel instead of the first operator panel,

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wherein the first operator panel is removably attachable to the machine and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to operate in the computer-host--based mode,

wherein the machine cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode when the first operator panel is attached to the machine, and

- 25 wherein the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode and to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine
30 to also function in the computer-host-based mode.